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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The Hohenock penitentiary is located near Seolberg in the Erzgebirge in Saxony. The main building was a castle which was built in the 17th century. This establishment was first used as a prison at the beginning of this century. During Kaiser Wilhelm's reign, it was used as a penitentiary and jail and during the Nazi period it was partially used for political prisoners.

2. After the closing of Sachsenhausen in February 1950, all female prisoners who had been sentenced by Soviet Military Tribunals were sent to Hohenock. The penitentiary was set up to accommodate 300 prisoners but 1167 female prisoners were on the transport from Sachsenhausen. [redacted] small transports from Halle, Magdeburg and Bautzen arrived at the institution. Since 1952 there were no persons sentenced by Soviet Military Tribunals among the new arrivals. The total number of inmates remained at about 1300 [redacted]

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3. In October 1950, 15 inmates were amnestied by the Russians. The case was that of a woman who had been sentenced to 25 years for espionage. In March 1951, 28 inmates were amnestied. Twenty-one of the 28 pardoned had served 1-5 years and the remaining 7 had served only 1 to 2 years. All 28 had received sentences of 10 years. To conceal the fact that Hohenock was a political penitentiary, in May 1951, females who had received criminal sentences from German courts were also placed in this institution. Shortly thereafter it was announced that inmates were criminal prisoners and no one was to call herself a political prisoner. In October 1951, the Germans amnestied approximately 70 criminal prisoners.

4. The sentences imposed by the Russians frequently took on a political aspect, i.e., German nationals employed by the Russians apprehended stealing, embezzling or in some other criminal act, were sentenced to imprisonment for sabotage. The sentences were mostly 25 years. The other political inmates at Hohenock, as well as those sentenced under these circumstances, considered these inmates to be political prisoners rather than criminal prisoners.

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5. The cells and other rooms were very small and crowded. A normal cell was about 2 x 4.5 meters and had to accommodate 3 or 4 inmates. The community rooms accommodated on an average of 200 to 300 inmates. When all the inmates assigned to such quarters were present, there was not adequate sleeping space. The exercise period in the prison yard was 30 minutes per day. However, this was actually less than 20 minutes per day. As the prison yard was so small, the inmates did not get the exercise they actually needed.
6. The largest workshop was the tailor shop. This shop employed 600 inmates who were divided into 3 shifts of 200 each. The shifts were from 0600-1100, 1100-2200, and 2200-0600 hours. The tailor shop worked on the mass production system. The "norm" system was used and inmates were constantly being pressed to increase these. 450 gymnastic trunks were made on the shop's 14 machines during one shift. The shop was mostly busy making uniforms for the K.V.P. (Casernac People's Police). The inmates were paid 0.30, 0.40, or 0.50 Marks-East per day. The salary depended on the type of work executed and how the inmate was able to keep up with the prescribed norms. Each shift foreman received 0.75 Marks-East per day.
7. The second workshop was the glove factory. This shop employed 200 inmates who were divided into 2 shifts of 100 in each shift. The shop was poorly equipped and the lighting was bad. The entire production was for military use. The gloves were fur-lined, white, and reached up to the elbow. There were only two types made, namely, mittens and finger gloves. The salaries in this shop were the same as in the tailor shop.
8. The third workshop was the "Stoffputze". The shop worked for the Marone Spinning Mill in Saxony. The inmates removed defects in the material with tweezers. The salaries here were not as high because the product was not for military use. They were paid 0.20 and 0.30 Marks-East per day. 1/.
9. The following sections were for the housekeeping and maintenance work:

Locksmith's shop	8 inmates employed
Carpenter shop	20 inmates employed
Paintshop	20 inmates employed
Shoe repair shop	30 inmates employed
Kitchen department	8 inmates employed
Kitchen police	8 inmates employed
Blitz Kommando	6 inmates employed. This section handled the loading and storage of all incoming and outgoing goods.
Masonry department	8 to 10 inmates employed. They did an enormous amount of work enlarging the penitentiary buildings. They also did their own mud-carrying.

The inmates assigned to the above functions did not receive any salary, as their work was considered non-productive.
10. The penitentiary had its own infirmary. Two doctors, who were inmates, were in charge. The doctors worked under great handicaps as medical supply and equipment were inadequate. All hot water had to be carried in buckets from the kitchen. It was impossible to sterilize the instruments. The general condition of the infirmary was poor. The doctors did not have sufficient nursing assistance, even though there were many nurses among the inmates. As nursing was considered a non-productive employment, the majority of nurses were assigned to the workshops.

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All surgical operations were performed at the penitentiary in Waldheim which was 60 km. from Hoheneck. Frequently, when patients had to be transferred to Waldheim, they were hand-cuffed. The infirmary treated 100 cases of active TB, and there were 120 inactive cases, who were assigned to cells in the south wing.

11. A troop of 340 People's Police was assigned to guard Hoheneck. One third of the troop was made up of male guards, and two thirds were female. The inmates considered the male guards to be more humanitarian and reasonable. There was never a case of the male guards molesting the inmates. The female guards were frequently Dienst fuer Deutschland girls. The morale was very low among the guard force. The guards often told the inmates that there were more traitors in their ranks than among the inmates. A few of the female guards were very friendly, and would mail and receive letters for the inmates. When apprehended performing this service, they received sentences ranging from 5 to 10 years. They never served their sentences at Hoheneck, but were imprisoned at Waldheim.

12. Daily Schedule and Menu.

0500 Reveille. Cleaning of cell and personal hygiene.
0600 Breakfast. Consisted of coffee, bread and 30 grams of margarine. Since 1951, the inmates received all the bread they wanted. The inmates scheduled to begin work at 0600 had to go to breakfast earlier.
0700. Those who had worked the night shift were allowed to sleep until 1200 hours.

1200 Noon meal. Three-fourths litre cabbage soup five times per week. Two times per week, 50 grams of fat were added to the soup. 68 grams and 52 grams of meat were served twice a week. As a rule potatoes were served with the meat course.

1700 Evening meal. This meal consisted of coffee, bread, 20 grams of margarine and 20-30 grams of sausage, depending on the inmate's classification. Non-workers received no sausage, light workers received 20 grams, and heavy workers received 30 grams. In February 1951 the classification "heavy worker" was abolished. Thirty grams of butter were served 3 times per month. Both active and inactive TB inmates received butter every day. The greatest feeding problem was for those working on shifts. They had to wait until after they went off duty to receive their meals and there were no facilities for keeping the food warm.

13. Personalities.

- A. Fnu BODACH. He was commandant from 15 February 1950 to October 1950.

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- B. Ludwig REITZ. He was commandant from October 1950 to 30 September 1952.

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- C. Harry HAOEL. He was commandant from 1 October 1952 to 31 December 1952.

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- D. Frau TRAPP. She was the Political Officer from January 1951 to July-August 1952.

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- E. Hildegard OESER. For the last three years she has been in charge of the prisoners' clothing.

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- F. Jotta WIDEMANN. She was the Political Commissar from February 1951 to December 1952.

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- G. Policeman Karl HAMMER. He was in charge of the workshops from 12 February 1950 to the present.

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- H. Anne-Maria SIEDEL. Guard.

- I. Inge FOEDEL. Head guard.

- J. Frau SCHULTZ

- K. Hans MEYER. He was in charge of the kitchen from May 1950 to May 1952.

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14. Permission to make purchases was given to the inmates when they exceeded their norms. The inmates were not especially pleased to receive the permission, as it only meant that they could make small purchases with the money they had already earned. The following items could be purchased:
 25 cigarettes or one-fourth pound of candy or 1 kg. fruit (when in season)
 20 cigarettes or candy (drops)
 15 cigarettes or one-half kg. fruit (when in season)
 10 cigarettes
 5 cigarettes

15. Since March 1952 the inmates were given East zone newspapers and Communist literature.

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Comment:

the name "SCHULTZ" is probably a cover name.

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